

April 5, 2006

I am writing out of concern about the proposed Bank of Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart is a company that has destroyed the scenic beauty of our suburbs with its hulking sprawl, it has endangered entrepreneurship by running small retailers out of business, and it exploits and mistreats its workers by paying poverty-level wages and offering no medical benefits (or unaffordable medical benefits).

Wal-Mart also has a long history of discrimination against women.

Now this corporate monster wants to manage my money, and my neighbor's money. I fear Wal-Mart already has too much power and allowing them to bank will not only threaten smaller banks (just as they've threatened the entrepreneurs) but upend financial stability with its vast economic power. I also shudder to think how it will treat the employees of its banks.

And how can we be sure that Wal-Mart, with its determination to rule the retail world, can be relied upon to give fair and reasonable loans to budding businesses? We can't.

Please consider these concerns when making your decision. Thank you,

Che Vaughn  
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